

now, starting in March. This is a program where, during the Obama administration, if you had a family member, a parent—it had to be a parent or a guardian—in the United States legally, then you could come through this program called CAM, Central American Minors Program. I am glad they have restarted that program. That makes sense. I will tell you, over 5 years, only 3,500 kids were processed in that program. Again, your parent has to be in the United States legally. There are 3,500 kids coming across our border every 9 days right now. So the program is not going to solve all our problems, but it will help, and that is a good idea.

We need to take a hard look at all of this, at all of these pull factors we talked about and certainly at the push factors.

I will say that the Biden administration has proposed \$4 billion to go to these three countries—Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras. As a Congress, we have appropriated and \$3.6 billion has been spent in the last 5 years in these three countries. So we have done almost that much in the last 5 years, and yet, because of the corruption, because of the lack of transparency, because of the lack of rule of law, the money has not been as effectively spent as it

should have been. So we have to be sure the money is conditioned upon reforms to actually improve the lives of the individuals in those countries. Despite the corruption, we need to cut through that and say: If you take this money, you have to commit to the reforms. Second, again, it should be contingent upon helping with our asylum system to be sure that we can deal with this surge that we are now facing.

If the Biden administration takes these six recommended actions I have laid out today, I believe we would move toward bringing a quicker end to this crisis on the border, and we would be able to secure our southern border with regard to the drugs that are coming over and other contraband and be able to say that we, together, worked on this.

I know this is a time where everybody is in their corner, the Republicans and Democrats, and it is impossible, it seems like, to make progress. But I think these are pretty sensible ideas, and the alternative is a bad one: that this is going to get worse. You will have more and more kids in detention centers. You will have more and more families released to communities in the United States where they don't come forward for their hearings. And it

is something that discourages people about our immigration system. It just doesn't seem to work. It is certainly not working on the border today.

So my hope is that these ideas or others—maybe others in this Chamber have better ideas, but hopefully they can be bipartisan, and we can get some of this stuff done and actually deal with the crisis we all know exists and we have a responsibility to face.

I yield the floor.

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:50 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 10 a.m.

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#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 22, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MARTIN JOSEPH WALSH, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE SECRETARY OF LABOR.